

# Edina Energy & Environment Commission Bylaws



## Section 1: Introduction

The bylaws outlined below are approved procedures for the Edina Energy and Environment Commission (EEC). Members should review and understand City Code Chapter 2, Article III, Division 1 and Chapter 2, Article III, Division 3 included in the appendix of these bylaws. In the event of a conflict between the City Code and the EEC bylaws, the City Code will prevail.

Some components of these bylaws are common across all City boards and commissions. From time to time the City Council may make changes to board and commission bylaws and will notify the board and commission of these changes. Boards and commissions should consult with their staff liaison if they want to propose a change to the bylaws. Proposed bylaw amendments should be announced one meeting prior to voting on the proposed change. Bylaw amendments require the approval of a majority of the voting EEC members and approval by the City Council.

In addition to the City Code and these bylaws, the EEC will be guided by those policies and procedural documents applicable to the EEC or City advisory boards in general. Copies of these documents will be made available to members at the beginning of their service with the EEC.

## Section 2: Mission and Business Address

Refer to City Code Chapter 2, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-78 and Chapter 2, Article III, Division 3, Section 2-138 for the EEC mission. The business office for the EEC is located at Edina City Hall, 4801 W. 50th St., Edina, MN 55424-1394. Members of the public can also contact the EEC at [mail@edinamn.gov](mailto:mail@edinamn.gov).

## Section 3: Membership

### Membership Composition

Refer to City Code Chapter 2, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-80 and Chapter 2, Article III, Division 3, Section 2-139.

### Terms of Membership

Refer to City Code Chapter 2, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-81.

### Contact Information

EEC members are required to provide a mailing address and phone number and/or email address to the Project Coordinator. This contact information is available to City staff and members of the public.

### Responsibilities

EEC members are expected to be present and adequately prepared for all meetings and to actively participate in meeting discussions. Members who are unable to complete assigned tasks should notify the Chairperson as soon as possible.

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## Attendance

Refer to City Code Chapter 2, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-86. If a member cannot attend a regular meeting, he or she should notify the Staff Liaison as soon as possible and ideally no later than two hours prior to the start of the meeting. Cancelled meetings will be counted as meetings held and attended for purpose of calculating attendance percentages.

## Resignation or Removal

Refer to City Code Chapter 2, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-81. The EEC may ask the City Council to review a member's appointment based on the member's failure to perform the responsibilities outlined above.

## **Section 4: Meetings**

### Meeting Notice

Refer to City Code Chapter 2, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-84. All board and commission meetings are open to the public. To comply with legal requirements and ensure accessibility to the public, the Staff Liaison gives official notice of all EEC meetings on the City's website and at City Hall.

### Regular Meetings

Refer to City Code Chapter 2, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-84. Regular meetings of the EEC are held at Edina City Hall, 4801 W. 50th St., Edina, MN 55424-1394 or another officially noticed location on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. A regular meeting may be rescheduled by the EEC at a prior meeting.

### Annual Meeting

In March, the EEC will hold an annual meeting to:

- Elect officers for the upcoming year,
- Review and update bylaws as necessary, and
- Affirm the regular meeting schedule for the upcoming year.

### Special Meetings

Special meetings of the EEC may be called by the Chairperson, City Council, City Manager or by the directive of a majority of the EEC voting members. Members will be notified of the special meeting by written or email communication at least three calendar days in advance of the meeting. To comply with the open meeting law and to ensure accessibility to the public, the Staff Liaison posts official notice of all special meetings. A quorum is not required for special meetings; however, members cannot take action on a motion unless a quorum is present.

### Cancelling Meetings

Meetings of the EEC can be cancelled by the Chairperson, City Council, City Manager or by the directive of a majority of the EEC voting members. Meetings may be cancelled for insufficient business, lack of quorum, conflict with a holiday, inclement weather or in the event of a community emergency.

### Quorum

Refer to City Code Chapter 2, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-84.

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## Meeting Agendas

Meeting agendas will be prepared by the Chairperson in consultation with the City Staff Liaison. Members may request that items be added to the agenda; however, the addition of such items is subject to approval by a majority of the voting members. The meeting agenda and related materials will be sent electronically on the Monday prior to the scheduled regular Thursday meeting.

## Meeting Proceedings

During regular meetings, business will be conducted in the order listed below. The order of business may be changed with the support of a majority of the voting members.

- Call to order
- Roll call
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of minutes from preceding meeting
- Public hearings
- Community comment
- Reports and recommendations
- Correspondence
- Commission comments
- Staff comments
- Adjournment

Meetings will be conducted according to the latest edition of *Roberts Rules of Order*.

## Community Comment

During "Community Comment," the Chair will ask to hear from those in attendance who would like to speak about something not on the agenda that is relevant to the EEC. Individuals must limit their presentations to three minutes. Chair has the right to limit the number of speakers making similar statements and to limit comments related to matters previously discussed. The EEC is not required to respond to the comments. In order to maintain a respectful environment for all those in attendance, disruptive behavior such as the use of signs, clapping, cheering or booing is not allowed.

## Motions and Voting

A simple majority of voting members present and voting will decide all motions before the EEC. At the request of a member, a roll call vote will be taken when there is a divided vote on any item. A tie vote on any motion will result in a failure to pass. Student members are not eligible to vote.

## Meeting Minutes

Refer to City Chapter 2, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-85. City staff will prepare minutes for EEC meetings. The minutes will include which members were present and absent, a summary of each item discussed and any motions proposed, and the votes on those motions. If a member of City staff is not present to record minutes, the EEC will appoint a secretary to prepare the minutes. The secretary will prepare draft minutes within two weeks of the meeting date and forward the draft to the Chair and City Staff Liaison. Approved minutes will be posted on the City's website and forwarded to the City Clerk for distribution to the City Council by the City Staff Liaison.



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## Section 5: Officers

Refer to City Code Chapter 2, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-83. The EEC will hold elections for the officer positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson at the annual meeting in February. The Chairperson may make and second motions and vote on all motions. The duties of the Chairperson include but are not limited to:

- Prepare the agenda in consultation with the City Staff Liaison.
- Lead the meeting in accordance with the agenda and facilitate discussion on agenda items.
- Invoke a reasonable time limit for speakers during public testimony.
- Ensure that the bylaws are followed and actions are properly taken.
- Maintain meeting decorum.
- Extend meetings or schedule special meetings as necessary.
- Cancel meetings, in consultation with the City Staff Liaison.
- Facilitate the development of the annual work plan.
- Develop annual calendar of anticipated agenda items for each month.
- Consult with members regarding attendance issues.
- Encourage active participation by EEC members and members of the public.

The Vice Chairperson performs the duties of the Chairperson in his/her absence. If both the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson are absent, an acting chairperson may be assigned in advance by either officer or at the meeting by a majority vote of the members.

## Section 6: City Staff Liaison

Refer to City Code Chapter 2, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-79. The EEC has a City Staff Liaison appointed by the City Manager. The City Staff Liaison is expected to work cooperatively with EEC members. Members may not direct City staff but can request assistance through the City Staff Liaison to carry out the EEC mission. The duties of the City Staff Liaison include but are not limited to:

- Work with Chairperson to prepare and distribute meeting agendas.
- Reserve meeting rooms and other needed meeting equipment.
- Record and prepare meeting minutes (or delegate the responsibility to another City staff member).
- Provide technical expertise and access to City resources.
- Work with Chairperson to ensure bylaws are followed and annual work plans are submitted.
- Relay information or directives from City Council meetings or work sessions relevant to the EEC.
- Respond to EEC inquiries in a timely manner.
- Forward information to and between EEC members.
- Record meeting attendance, include the current attendance record with each packet and consult with the Chairperson and designated staff regarding attendance issues.
- Provide orientation materials to new members and Chairperson.
- Handle funds allocated to the EEC in accordance with its directives, City policies and legal requirements.
- Serve as the custodian of EEC records.
- Work with City Clerk to serve all notices required by law or these bylaws.

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Concerns with the performance of the City Staff Liaison should be directed to the Assistant City Manager.

## **Section 7: Committees and Working Groups**

### Introduction

Committees or Working Groups may be established by a majority vote of the EEC to study issues in greater depth and report findings. Committees or Working Groups present their analysis to the EEC for discussion and recommendations. The EEC has the sole authority to make final recommendations on all matters on which a Committee or Working Group has given guidance. The EEC defines the scope and the duration of the Committee or Working Group's mission. In no case may the Committee or Working Group exceed the authority granted by the EEC.

Committee and Working Group participants may not include enough voting EEC members to constitute a quorum for the EEC. Committees or Working Groups may be designated as standing (ongoing) or temporary in nature.

### Definitions

Committees and Working Groups may be comprised of two or more people, one of whom is the chair appointed by the EEC. A Committee is comprised of current EEC members only. A Working Group is led by an EEC member, but will also include members of the public.

### Working Group Announcement

Notice will be given to the public of the formation of any Working Group, including a press release from the City to local media outlets. Individuals will have a minimum of 14 days after the public notice to express interest in joining before members are selected.

### Public Access

Based on the potential public interest in the topic, some Committee and Working Group meetings may be designated as public meetings by the EEC or the City Council. If a Committee or Working Group's meetings are designated as public meetings, official meeting notices, written agendas and written minutes are required. Refer to Section 4 of these bylaws for additional information on meeting notices.

### Appointments and Chair Assignments

**Committees:** The EEC Chairperson will ask for Committee volunteers from the EEC membership. A majority vote may approve the Committee appointments once sufficient volunteers are established. A temporary Committee Chair will be appointed by the EEC at the time of Committee formation. The Committee will elect its own chair and notify the EEC Chairperson.

**Working Groups:** The EEC Chairperson will ask for volunteers from the EEC to serve as the Working Group Chair. The Working Group Chair is approved by a majority of EEC members. The Working Group Chair will recommend other Working Group members. By definition, those members will include individuals outside of the EEC. The Chair may also

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nominate a co-chair who is not a EEC member. Working Group appointments will be made by a majority vote of EEC members.

The duties of the Committee or Working Group Chair(s) include but are not limited to:

- Set the meeting schedule and, if required, notify the City Staff Liaison for public notification.
- Prepare and distribute a written meeting agenda, if required.
- Lead the meeting in accordance with the agenda and facilitate discussion on agenda items.
- Ensure that this section of the bylaws and EEC directives are followed.
- Maintain meeting decorum.
- Recommend members and notify EEC of changes in membership (Working Group only).
- Report on the Committee or Working Group's activities at each regular EEC meeting.
- Communicate to the Committee or Working Group any directives, questions or input from the EEC.

## Resignation or Removal

A Committee or Working Group member may voluntarily resign by submitting his or her written resignation to the Chair of the Committee or Working Group. A Committee or Working Group member may be removed by a majority vote of the EEC.

## Disbanding

A Committee or Working Group may be disbanded at any regular meeting of the EEC by a majority vote of the members. Committees or Working Groups will automatically be disbanded if no member of the EEC is available to serve or appropriate volunteer membership cannot be established.

## **Section 8: Communication**

### Applicability

This section applies to all types of media and communication methods including face-to-face, telephone, email and social media.

### Communication Between Members Outside of Meetings

EEC-related communication between members, when a quorum of voting members is present, constitutes a violation of open meeting laws, if it takes place outside of publicly-noticed meetings. Members are prohibited from discussing EEC business in such a situation. Since email communication is common outside of meetings, the following email protocol is adopted:

- Any email communication intended for a majority of EEC members should go through the City Staff Liaison so that an appropriate record can be established.
- Members should not respond "reply all" to group messages.
- Members should not blind copy (bcc) other members.

Members must not engage in a serial discussion of EEC business. A serial discussion occurs when members discuss official business with a majority of voting members through successive communications. Serial communication can occur through a combination of communication methods such as face-to-face, email, telephone or on a social media site.

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## Communication with the Public Outside of Meetings

EEC members are encouraged to share their work with members of the public within the guidelines noted in the paragraph below.

When communicating EEC business with the public, members should understand and convey the following:

- The deliberations and decisions of the EEC will be based solely on information contained in the public record presented to all EEC members participating in the deliberation or action.
- The member's comments do not represent the opinion or viewpoint of other commissioners or the EEC as a whole.

Members should exercise care not to communicate how they intend to vote on any pending matter or give the appearance any matter has been pre-decided.

## Public Announcements and Press Releases

The City's Communications and Technology Services Department will approve and coordinate any public announcements, press releases or other media contact desired by the EEC.

## **Section 9: Financial Transactions**

All financial expenditures by the EEC must relate to the EEC mission and be covered under the EEC budget. All expenditures must be approved in advance by a majority of the voting members. The City Staff Liaison is responsible for ensuring that all approved expenditures or reimbursements meet the criteria above as well as other City financial policies. Expenditures that do not meet the criteria above will not be reimbursed. The EEC does not have the authority to execute contracts or to otherwise financially obligate the City of Edina. Any contract related to EEC business will be managed by the City Staff Liaison and may be subject to City Council approval.

## **Section 10: Ethical and Respectful Conduct**

### Conflict of Interest

Members may not use their position on the EEC for personal benefit. The interests of the EEC must be the first priority in all decisions and actions. Any member who has a financial interest in, or who may receive a financial benefit as a result of, any EEC action or decision must disclose this fact as a conflict of interest. A member who has disclosed a conflict of interest should abstain from discussion and voting on the matter.

### Gifts

EEC members may not receive personal gifts from any "interested person" in conjunction with their board or commission duties. An "interested person" is a person, or representative of a person or an association, who has a direct financial interest in a recommendation under the EEC's purview. This section does not apply to lawful campaign contributions. The EEC may recommend acceptance of general gifts or donations through the City's donation policy.

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## Respectful Behavior

The City of Edina is committed to providing a work environment free from violence for all elected and appointed officials, employees and visitors. The City does not tolerate any form of violence in the workplace including threats or intimidating actions by or against any of the groups cited above. Violence and threats may include, but are not limited to:

- Any act which is a physical assault
- Any threat, behavior or action which is interpreted by a reasonable person to carry the potential to harm or endanger the safety of others, or result in an act of aggression, or destroy or damage City property.

The Chairperson and City Staff Liaison have the right to call for the immediate removal of anyone who threatens or commits an act of violence on City property.

Respectful behavior also includes how EEC members relate to each other, City staff and members of the public. Members share a joint responsibility in modeling, monitoring and addressing behavior within the group.

During EEC interactions, members should strive to:

- Treat people with courtesy, politeness and kindness
- Encourage others to express their opinions and ideas
- Listen to what others have to say
- Use the ideas of others to improve decisions and outcomes
- Recognize cultural differences

Members should avoid:

- Speaking over or cutting off another individual's comments
- Insulting, disparaging or putting down people or their ideas
- Bullying other members by displaying a pattern of belittling, demeaning, judging or patronizing comments.

## How to Report

Members can report cases of unethical conduct to the City Staff Liaison, Assistant City Manager, City Manager or City Attorney.